

The manager's amendment to H.R. 404 before us today also restricts the use of this new public benefit discount to property that was originally part of a military installation which has been closed or realigned under a base closure statute. This was done because of budgetary concerns with the bill as it passed committee.

I support H.R. 404, as amended. Law enforcement and fire and rescue purposes are legitimate reasons for State and local governments to acquire surplus Federal property at a discount. I also want to thank the majority for working with the minority to come up with a very, very good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. CALVERT].

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Long Beach, CA [Mr. HORN], my good friend and neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to support H.R. 404. We all know that the cost of crime prevented and a person diverted from a life of crime is much less than that of a prison cell. One of the keys to crime deterrence is a well-trained police force.

Due to the efforts of the Riverside Sheriff's Department in my district to do the right thing and emphasize police training over prison space, I discovered a Federal catch-22 that I believe we should quickly correct. When the Federal Government declares real property as surplus, various local entities may apply for the property at a no-cost basis if they use the property for some valid social purpose.

To obtain the excess Federal property, the local entity must apply to a Federal agency to sponsor the no-cost transfer. As would seem logical, agencies usually sponsor transfers in keeping with their charges. The Department of Education sponsors educational facilities. Housing and Urban Development sponsors housing. And Department of Justice sponsors prisons. Therein lies the problem.

Incredibly, the Department of Justice is prohibited by statute to sponsor law enforcement and/or fire and rescue training facilities. They can only sponsor the building of prisons. H.R. 404, as amended, would correct this quirk in the law and allow the Department of Justice to apply its considerable expertise to sponsor its excess property for training of law enforcement, fire and rescue officials.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a minute to thank the 60 cosponsors of this measure. I especially wanted to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] for his hard work and leadership in crafting this legislation and passing the measure out of committee. I wish to thank the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] for her support. And I would also like to express my gratitude to the gentleman from California [Mr. BONO], who also shares

the area of March Air Force Base and testified on the bill's behalf during subcommittee hearings. Finally, I wish to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN], the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DAVIS] and the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] for their strong support.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again, I just want to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] and I want to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. CALVERT] for their cooperation in bringing this very important piece of legislation before us. Once again, I think it is a very important piece of legislation in that it serves a very important public purpose, and the bipartisanship that was displayed in bringing this together is very, very important.

Mr. Speaker, we have no other requests for time. Therefore, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have no other witnesses. And I would simply say this in wrapping this up: We have had excellent cooperation from the Democratic staff and the Democratic Members, such as the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. CUMMINGS] today. The gentleman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] has always been helpful on this, as well as many other bills.

So I would like to thank the Democratic staff, Mark Stephenson; the Democratic staff emeritus, Miles Romney, who we all look to for guidance and institutional memory over about 25 to 35 years; and the staff of the gentleman from California [Mr. CALVERT], Nelson Garcia, has been very helpful; and, of course, our own majority Republican staff Mark Brasher and the staff, who is the professional staff member assigned to surplus property, among many other duties, and Staff Director Russell George.

I would simply say this in summing up: I hope that the leadership of the General Services Administration, the Department of Justice—and anybody else that is involved as a result of this statute going on the books—will write those regulations as rapidly as possible. This surplus land has waited long enough for the obvious. And this is another move by Congress on a bipartisan basis to assure flexibility within the executive branch to meet the needs of people throughout America when they have base closure land and they want to put certain types of correctional law enforcement training facilities on that land and a coroner's office and laboratories, as it is in this case.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 404, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### CARSON AND SANTA FE NATIONAL FORESTS LAND CONVEYANCES

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 434) to provide for the conveyance of small parcels of land in the Carson National Forest and the Santa Fe National Forest, NM to the village of El Rito and the town of Jemez Springs, NM as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 434

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. LAND CONVEYANCE, CARSON NATIONAL FOREST, NEW MEXICO.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall convey through sale or exchange to the County of Rio Arriba for the benefit of the village of El Rito, New Mexico (in this section referred to as "El Rito"), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, together with any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 5 acres located in the Carson National Forest in the State of New Mexico.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of the survey shall be borne by the Forest Service.

(c) LANDS ACQUIRED IN EXCHANGE FROM RIO ARRIBA COUNTY.—Except as provided in this Act, any exchange of lands under subsection (a) shall be processed in accordance with the rules of the Secretary of Agriculture setting forth the procedures for conducting exchanges of National Forest System lands (36 CFR part 254). Any lands to be conveyed to the United States in such an exchange shall be acceptable to the Secretary and shall be subject to such valid existing rights or record as may be acceptable to the Secretary. Title to such land shall conform with the title approval standards applicable to Federal land acquisitions.

(d) VALUATION AND APPRAISALS.—Values of any lands exchanged pursuant to subsection (a) shall be equal as determined by the Secretary. If, due to size, location, or use of lands exchanged under subsection (a), the values are not exactly equal, they shall be equalized by the payment of cash. The Secretary may accept cash equalization payments in excess of 25 per centum of the total value of the Federal lands exchanged. Value of any lands sold to the County of Rio Arriba shall be on the basis of fair market value as determined by the Secretary.

(e) DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.—Payments from a sale under subsection (a) or cash equalization payments may be made in equal installments for a period not to exceed 10 years. Any funds received by the Secretary through the sale or by cash equalization shall be deposited into the fund established by the Act of December 4, 1967 (16 U.S.C. 484a), known as the Sisk Act, and shall be

available for expenditure, upon appropriation, for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands in the State of New Mexico.

(f) **STATUS OF LANDS.**—Upon approval and acceptance of title by the Secretary, any lands acquired by the United States pursuant to subsection (a) shall become part of the Carson National Forest and the boundaries of the National Forest shall be adjusted to encompass such lands. Such lands shall be managed in accordance with the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the "Weeks Law") (36 Stat. 961), and shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the laws and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System. This section shall not limit the Secretary's authority to adjust the boundaries of the Carson National Forest pursuant to section 11 of the Act of March 1, 1911 ("Weeks Act"). For the purpose of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-9), the boundaries of the Carson National Forest, as adjusted by this Act, shall be considered to be boundaries of the Forest as of January 1, 1965.

## **SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCE, SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST, NEW MEXICO.**

(a) **CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall convey, through exchange, to the town of Jemez Springs, New Mexico (in this section referred to as "Jemez Springs"), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, together with any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 1 acre located in the Santa Fe National Forest in the State of New Mexico.

(b) **DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.**—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of the survey shall be borne by the Forest Service.

(c) **LANDS ACQUIRED IN EXCHANGE FROM THE TOWN OF JEMEZ SPRINGS.**—Except as provided in this Act, any exchange of lands under subsection (a) shall be processed in accordance with the rules of the Secretary of Agriculture setting forth the procedures for conducting exchanges of National Forest System lands (36 CFR part 254). Any lands conveyed to the United States in such an exchange shall be acceptable to the Secretary and shall be subject to such valid existing rights or record as may be acceptable to the Secretary. Title to such land shall conform with the title approval standards applicable to Federal land acquisitions.

(d) **VALUATION AND APPRAISALS.**—Values of any lands to be exchanged pursuant to subsection (a) shall be equal as determined by the Secretary. If, due to size, location, or use of lands exchanged under section 1(a), the values are not exactly equal, they shall be equalized by the payment of cash. The Secretary may accept cash equalization payments in excess of 25 per centum of the total value of the involved Federal lands exchanged.

(e) **DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.**—Payments for any cash equalization for the exchange under subsection (a) may be made in equal installments for a period of not to exceed 10 years. Any funds received by the Secretary through the cash equalization shall be deposited into the fund established by the Act of December 4, 1967 (16 U.S.C. 484a), known as the Sisk Act, and shall be available for expenditure, upon appropriation, for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands in the State of New Mexico.

(f) **STATUS OF LANDS.**—Upon approval and acceptance of title by the Secretary, any lands acquired by the United States pursuant to subsection (a) shall become part of the Santa Fe National Forest and the boundaries of the National Forest shall be adjusted to

encompass such lands. Such lands shall be managed in accordance with the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the "Weeks Law") (36 Stat. 961), and shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the laws and regulations pertaining to the National Forest System. This section does not limit the Secretary's authority to adjust the boundaries of the Carson National Forest pursuant to section 11 of the Act of March 1, 1911 ("Weeks Act"). For the purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-9), the boundaries of the Santa Fe National Forest, as adjusted by this Act, shall be considered to be boundaries of the Forest as of January 1, 1965.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] and the gentleman from America Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH].

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 434, introduced by former Congressman Bill Richardson, the current Ambassador to the United Nations, would provide a land conveyance for the village of El Rito and Jemez Springs in New Mexico. Both of these towns have important needs that deserve the attention of the committee.

I support the desire of the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. REDMOND] to see that El Rito receive land for a public cemetery and Jemez Springs to obtain one acre of land within the town in order to construct a much needed fire substation.

It is my understanding that in 1993 the Jemez National Recreation Area was carved out of the Santa Fe National Forest and this transformed Jemez Springs from an obscure little village located in the Santa Fe National Forest to a little community housing over 1 million visitors annually. Without much imagination, we can see how this would cause significant problems for any community.

The gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. REDMOND] has continued the fine labors of Mr. Richardson, who worked extensively with the Forest Service and local communities to fashion this solution. I commend the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. REDMOND] and urge passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1600

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, this bill was introduced by our former colleague, Congressman Bill Richardson, prior to his nomination as Amba-

sador to the United Nations. Serving on the Committee on Resources was no doubt good preparation for the many conflicts that he must now deal with around the world.

Mr. Speaker, at the hearing held on this bill in September of this year, the Forest Service expressed concerns about the conveyance without consideration of lands within the Carson National Forest and the Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico. I am pleased to note that as amended by the committee, the bill provides that the Forest Service will receive fair market value in exchange for the properties which comprise a total of 6 acres. It is my understanding that the Forest Service now supports the bill as amended. I know of no objection on this side of the aisle. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, for bringing H.R. 434 to the floor today and thank you Mrs. CHENOWETH for offering the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. This bill was introduced on January 9, 1997, by my predecessor in the Third District of New Mexico, the Honorable Bill Richardson, current Ambassador to the United Nations.

When I was elected to Congress, I promised my constituents that I would do my best to move this legislation, as well as other bills that Mr. Richardson introduced on their behalf. I appreciate you working with me to accomplish this goal.

If passed, this bill would provide two simple land conveyances from the Santa Fe National Forest and the Carson National Forest to the cities of Jemez Springs and El Rito, respectively. These conveyances will amount to a total of six acres of land.

Jemez Springs will use their one-acre land conveyance to build a fire substation to accommodate the rapidly growing tourist population that is the result of a national recreation area created near their community. The city of El Rito will use its five-acre conveyance to expand a cemetery.

These two communities, along with the Forest Service and Mr. Richardson worked extensively to craft a piece of legislation that would provide El Rito and Jemez Springs with the land that they need to continue to provide adequate, efficient community service.

Several weeks ago, on behalf of the city of Jemez Springs, Mayor David Sanchez testified before the Forests and Forest Health Subcommittee. I want to thank him for taking the time and effort he took to appear before the committee.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fine comments from the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA].

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore** (Mr. KINGSTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 434, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 434.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

#### EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS EXPANSION

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 588) to provide for the expansion of the Eagles Nest Wilderness within the Arapaho National Forest and the White River National Forest, CO, to include land known as the Slate Creek Addition.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 588

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SLATE CREEK ADDITION TO EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS, ARAPAHO AND WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FORESTS, COLORADO.

(a) SLATE CREEK ADDITION.—If, before December 31, 2000, the United States acquires the parcel of land described in subsection (b)—

(1) on acquisition of the parcel, the parcel shall be included in and managed as part of the Eagles Nest Wilderness designated by Public Law 94-352 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 90 Stat. 870); and

(2) the boundary of Eagles Nest Wilderness is adjusted to reflect the inclusion of the parcel.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF ADDITION.—The parcel referred to in subsection (a) is the parcel generally depicted on a map entitled "Slate Creek Addition-Eagles Nest Wilderness", dated February 1997, comprising approximately 160 acres in Summit County, Colorado, adjacent to the Eagles Nest Wilderness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH].

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, S. 588 is a noncontroversial bill affecting

Forest Service lands in the district of the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] which passed the House earlier this year as H.R. 985. I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. HINCHEY], the subcommittee ranking member, for their cooperation with passage of this measure.

This bill provides that a 160-acre parcel at Slate Creek in Summit County, CO, will be added to the Eagles Nest Wilderness and administered as part of the wilderness area if the land is acquired by the United States within the next 4 years.

The Slate Creek parcel is proposed for acquisition by the United States in a land exchange; however, the current owners are unwilling to convey the land unless it is added to the Eagles Nest Wilderness and permanently managed as wilderness. Since the Slate Creek parcel is surrounded on three sides by the wilderness area, it only makes sense that it be made a part of the wilderness area if the land is acquired by the United States.

I urge support for this measure, which does really enjoy broad support of the Summit County Board of County Supervisors and Commissioners, the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council, the Wilderness Land Trust and other interested parties.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on today's agenda we have four previously House-passed Colorado bills. Senate bill 588 expands the Eagles Nest Wilderness within the Arapaho National Forest and the White River National Forest to include land known as the Slate Creek Addition. The House passed this bill in the form of H.R. 985 on June 17 of this year.

To their credit, the owners of this 160-acre parcel want assurances that their land will be protected as wilderness if acquired by the U.S. Forest Service. Accordingly, the bill provides that if the United States acquires the Slate Creek property prior to the year 2000, it will be included in the Eagles Nest Wilderness.

Mr. Speaker, this is good legislation, consistent with the desires of both the private property owners and in the public interest. I urge my colleagues to adopt this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho [Mrs. CHENOWETH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 588.

The question was taken.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### RAGGEDS WILDERNESS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AND LAND CONVEYANCE

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 589) to provide for a boundary adjustment and land conveyance involving the Raggeds Wilderness, White River National Forest, Colorado, to correct the effects of earlier erroneous land surveys.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 589

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AND LAND CONVEYANCE, RAGGEDS WILDERNESS, WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST, COLORADO.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) certain landowners in Gunnison County, Colorado, who own real property adjacent to the portion of the Raggeds Wilderness in the White River National Forest, Colorado, have occupied or improved their property in good faith and in reliance on erroneous surveys of their properties that the landowners reasonably believed were accurate;

(2) in 1993, a Forest Service resurvey of the Raggeds Wilderness established accurate boundaries between the wilderness area and adjacent private lands; and

(3) the resurvey indicates that a small portion of the Raggeds Wilderness is occupied by adjacent landowners on the basis of the earlier erroneous land surveys.

(b) PURPOSE.—If it is the purpose of this section to remove from the boundaries of the Raggeds Wilderness certain real property so as to permit the Secretary of Agriculture to use the authority of Public Law 97-465 (commonly known as the "Small Tracts Act") (16 U.S.C. 521c et seq.) to convey the property to the landowners who occupied the property on the basis of erroneous land surveys.

(c) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.—The boundary of the Raggeds Wilderness, Gunnison and White River National Forests, Colorado, as designed by section 102(a)(16) of Public Law 96-560 (94 Stat. 3267; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note), is hereby modified to exclude from the area encompassed by the wilderness a parcel of real property approximately 0.86-acres in size situated in the SW¼ of the NE¼ of Section 28, Township 11 South, Range 88 West of the 6th Principal Meridian, as depicted on the map entitled "Encroachment-Raggeds Wilderness", dated November 17, 1993.

(d) MAP.—The map described in subsection (c) shall be on file and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

(e) CONVEYANCE OF LAND REMOVED FROM WILDERNESS AREA.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall use the authority provided by Public Law 97-465 (commonly known as the "Small Tracts Act") (16 U.S.C. 521c et seq.) to convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the real property excluded from the boundaries of the Raggeds